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The ANSWERS Commanded by his Majesty to be given by the Right
Honourable the Earl of Nottingham, Lord High Chancellor of England,
upon several ADDRESSES presented to his Majesty in Council at
Hampton Court.

K. Eng. - Misc. Pub. Doc. - III.

The 29th of May, 1681.

HIS Majesty hath considered the several Addresses which have been now presented to him, and Commands me to return these Answers to them.

First, I am to let the Commissioners of the Lieutenancy know, That His Majesty doth very well accept and approve of the Address they made; and think that zeal with which they have Expressed their Loyalty and good Affections to his Person and Government, to be at this time a very Seasonable Piece of Duty and Service, and doth heartily Thank them for it.

To the Gentlemen of the Borrow of *Scutbark*, His Majesty doth not only give His hearty Thanks, but declares himself to be extremely well pleased with the Form of their Address, and think they proceed upon the Truest and Surest Grounds that can be, when they lay it down for a Maxim, *That steady Loyalty is the only Foundation of True Felicity.*

And I am to assure you both, That His Majesty will always retain a Gracious Remembrance of your Good Services, and that you shall not fail to find the Effects of it, whensoever you shall apply your selves to His Majesty for His Favour.

As for that other Address which styles it self, *The Humble Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council Assembled*; and which is very much discredited by those other Addresses which accompany it, I have many Things in Command to say to it.

The King did expect that a Petition which seems to come from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the City of *London*, should have consisted of such Matters only, as relate to the particular Concerns of the City; at least He thought He should have found in it some due Acknowledgments of His continual Care in Preserving and Improving your Trade, and Supporting your Liberty and Franchises.

But contrary to His Expectations, and (as He thinks to your Duty) He finds this Petition meddling with Matters of State and Government, Things which do in no sort Appertain to you, but are quite out of your Sphere; And if this should pass without Reproof, the meanest Corporation, nay, the meanest Village in *England*, will have as much Right to be meddling in these Matters, as you have.

The only End and Use of Common Councils in *London*, is for the Business of *London*; you are not the Common Councils of the Nation, and yet you Behave your selves so, as if you thought you were.

But the King doth not look upon this Petition, as proceeding from the Unanimous Consent of the Common Council; He is very well informed, that it pass there, by an inconsiderable Majority; but Fourteen Votes in the whole, and against the Sense of the Major Part of the Court of Aldermen. And His Majesty hath a great Value and Kindness for the Honesty and Discretion of those who dissented from it: And He looks upon the Rest, as misled by some ill Men, who make it their Business to begin that Confusion in the City, which they see no hopes of beginning elsewhere.

And the King doth not believe that the Matter of this Petition was ever well considered by you, because he finds in it so many Presumptuous Mistakes.

It Prays the Calling of a Parliament, at a time, when the King hath already declared to all the World, that there shall be frequent Parliaments; and so seems to doubt of that Assurance which all Good Subjects give the King most humble Thanks for.

It Prays a Continuation of that Parliament, till all their Business be dispatcht; and so Breaks in upon the Highest Trust, which is Lodged in the King, to whom alone it belongs to appoint the Times and Seasons.

It Deprives the King of the whole Honour of His Grace and Goodness in Calling a Parliament, by making it seem to be the Effect of your impotunity.

So that nothing in the World could be more contrary to the seeming Ends of this Address, than the Address it self.

And besides all this, the King takes Notice of another Expression in your Address, wherein you pretend to be much troubled, that certain Pamphlets have lately come out, which speak very dishonourably of the Proceedings of the Two last Parliaments.

Now the King would have been glad you had mentioned what Pamphlets you mean, least otherwise the World suppose you to have a secret meaning in this General Expression; such a meaning as no honest Man or good Subject dares own.

And the King would have been glad too, that you had likewise taken Notice of such other Pamphlets, as defame His Majesty's Person and Government, and Libel all the Orders and Constitutions both of Church and State.

But it seems your Curiosity hath been very great to look after some kind of Pamphlets, but your Diligence hath been very little, when you should have looked after the Rest, and have punished the Seditious.

Notwithstanding all this, the King is still of Opinion, that there are but very few among you, who deserve these Reproofs; He is not only confident of the Affections of the City in General, as knowing that no Prince ever deserved better of his People: But he believes the greatest Part of the Court of Aldermen, and of the Common Council too; if they had all been present, to be very much addicted to his Service.

If therefore there be any among you, who seeks to make Divisions, He hopes you will mark them, and avoid them, and that you will study to be quiet and do your own Business; for the King hath set his Heart upon this City, to do them all the good he can, and 'tis only the Peace of His Government which can bring you any Prosperity.

The King therefore Recommends it to you, and Requires it of you, to take effectual Care, that there be no kind of Disturbance or Disorder among you.

*Reprinted for the Use of the Managers of the Bank of England,
and recommended to their Consideration, by a Loyal Subject,
and a Lover of the true Interest of the Nation.*

